

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

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CENTRAL PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY
COLINDALE AVENUE
LONDON, N.W.9

25 th May, 1952

Dear Professor Lederberg,

I am sorry to have been so long replying to your letter of April 18th but I delayed purposely expecting some news from Geneva about the confirmation of my Fellowship. However nothing has yet arrived so I had better delay no longer; though until it does I cannot make any definite plans about dates.

In answer to your questions, I anticipated staying in the States about 6 months of which I should like to spend 4 months with you and the remaining two months travelling round and visiting other labs. Of course I could always cut out the travelling part if anything important cropped up on the research side.

It would interest me very much to try and find other recombination systems in the Salmonellas and would also fit in with the work of my department. Your suggestion about S. Thompson seems a very good one to me and I have already started work on collecting strains of the organism; amongst these are three which are lysogenic for S. Dublin and perhaps it would be a good idea to try these first in making crosses between Salmonella groups C and D. All the Dublin strains I have collected so far are auxotrophs. I have not yet had time to identify the deficiency but judging from your paper in the Arch. Biochem., it is likely to be for thiamine. I have good contacts with Williams Smith and can almost certainly get hold of a set of typing phages for S. Thompson.

As regards the S. Potsdam x typhi-murium cross I have not yet got around to synthesising nutritional mutants and would gratefully accept your offer of some auxotrophic typhi-murium strains. The conditions existing in our lab. are not very favourable to the kind of work involved. I am fairly certain that some kind of exchange takes place and that the two organisms are not mutually lysogenic but have no clue whatsoever as to the mechanism involved.

(2).

Prof. Lederberg, cont.,

25th, May 1952

If you have no particular problem in mind I think it would probably be best for me to try the Thompson crosses before returning to Potsdam work, and to concentrate on the former, if I get any results with it. I will keep you informed as to how it goes. Incidentally I have just got what may be very useful as a marker, namely a Cobalt resistant strain of typhi which was discovered accidentally by Dr. E.S. Anderson here.

Yours sincerely,

C.C. Spicer

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